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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

7 March 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Modesto – Mom Pleads Guilty to Conspiring with Inmate Son to Steal \$145,000 in Stimulus Checks

(U) A Modesto woman pleaded guilty in federal court Friday to conspiring with her incarcerated son to fraudulently file for \$145,000 in stimulus checks. She pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud conspiracy and one count of aggravated identity theft after admitting that she and her son, who was serving a capital sentence on Death Row at San Quentin State Prison, obtained "personal identifiable information" of 9,043 individuals to apply for stimulus checks between March and July 2020. Internal Revenue Service and US Treasury Department investigators said the suspect admitted she filed "multiple" fraudulent claims for stimulus checks through the online IRS portal with personal identifiable information, obtained by her son, belonging to his fellow state prisoners and other individuals "whom they suspected might qualify as non-filers of 2018 or 2019 income tax returns."

SOURCE: 6 March 2022, SF Chronicle

(U) National City – National City Will Now Oversee Police Department's Use of Military Equipment

(U) This time next year, the National City Police Department must publicly report what military equipment it has on hand and how it was used throughout the year. The move is required by a new California law that pushes for transparency and oversight of costs associated with law enforcement use of military-style gear, such as drones, grenades, and armored vehicles. AB 481 mandates that law enforcement agencies receive permission from their governing boards, such as a city council or board of supervisors, to continue using the equipment and before buying new tools. The bill requires that agencies draft a policy establishing the "guidelines for the approval, acquisition, and reporting requirements of military equipment," reads NCPD's policy. The department must also create a detailed inventory of all the gear it has and would like to purchase, with information about each item's life span, the purpose for its use, costs and how it plans to pay for them.

SOURCE: 6 March 2022, San Diego Union-Tribune

(U) Roseville – Police Search for Ten People who Robbed Jewelry Store

(U) Authorities in Northern California were searching Sunday for ten men suspected of storming a jewelry store and using sledgehammers to smash display cases and take off with jewelry. The suspects brandished a gun during Friday's smash-and-grab robbery from the store at the Roseville Galleria mall. The group fled in a silver Chevrolet and orange Dodge Charger, police said.

SOURCE: 7 March 2022, The Mercury News

(U) Sacramento – Man Used 'Ghost Gun' to Kill his Three Daughters in Sacramento Church

(U) The gunman who killed his three daughters, a chaperone who was supervising his visit with the children and himself in a Northern California church this week was armed with an unregistered "ghost gun," authorities said Friday. David Mora, 39, was armed with a homemade semiautomatic rifle-style weapon. He had an illegal 30-round ammunition magazine, and 17 bullets were fired. Mora was under a restraining order that barred him from possessing a firearm and authorities do not know how or when he obtained it.

SOURCE: 7 March 2022, San Jose Mercury News

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(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia - FBI and CISA Issue Joint Message about Russian-Ukraine Conflict

(U) Washington DC – The FBI and DHS have engaged daily in efforts to support the US response and to secure the homeland from potential impacts related to the Russia-Ukraine crisis. DHS has been designated as the lead Federal agency to coordinate domestic preparedness and response efforts related to the current crisis. DHS has established a Unified Coordination Group (UCG) to ensure unity of effort across the Federal Government in preparing for and responding to possible related threats to the homeland. While Russia is already engaged in cyber-attacks aimed at Ukraine, the FBI and DHS are concerned about potential cyberattacks or spillover to organizations within the US. While there is no specific, credible threat to the US homeland at this time, the FBI and DHS, along with their partners, continue to monitor the threat environment.

SOURCE: 7 March 2022, FBI CISA Newsroom

(U) Maryland – One Arrested with Weapon at Joint Base Andrews

(U) Baltimore – Security personnel at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland on Sunday night arrested one person with a weapon, while another remains at large, shortly after Vice President Kamala Harris had arrived on the base. Security personnel deployed barriers to stop the intruders' vehicle, which arrived around 9 pm on 6 March 2022. No shots were fired. Harris had arrived on the base at 8:47 pm on 6 March via Air Force Two, after a trip to Selma, Alabama, to mark the 57th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. The motive behind the incident was not immediately clear.

SOURCE: 7 March 2022, CNN

(U) Massachusetts – US Supreme Court Restores Boston Marathon Bomber's Death Sentence

(U) Boston – The US Supreme Court on Friday reinstated convicted Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's death sentence for his role in the 2013 attack that killed three people and wounded more than 260 others, ruling in favor of the federal government. In a 6-3 decision, the justices sided with the Justice Department's challenge to a 2020 federal appeals court ruling that had upheld Tsarnaev's conviction but overturned his death sentence.

SOURCE: 4 March 2022, Reuters

(U) South Dakota – Bird Flu Detected Among Mixed Species Flock

(U) Sioux Falls – Federal inspectors have confirmed the presence of bird flu in a commercial mixed-species flock in southeastern South Dakota. The US Agriculture Department says samples from the flock in Charles Mix County, which borders Nebraska, were tested at a national laboratory at South Dakota State University. The property was quarantined, and the birds will be killed to prevent the spread of the disease. Avian influenza is an airborne respiratory virus that spreads easily among chickens through nasal and eye secretions, as well as manure. The highly contagious virus was discovered a month ago in a commercial turkey flock in Indiana and was detected earlier this week in a backyard flock of chickens and ducks in western lowa.

SOURCE: 7 March 2022, KFGO

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Cameroon – Government Urges Civilians Not to Flee After Separatist Bomb Kills Seven

(U) Ekondo Titi – Cameroon has sent military and senior civilian officials to ask residents not to flee from Ekondo Titi, an English-speaking western town where anglophone separatists this week killed seven people, including the most senior administrative official, the mayor, and traditional ruler. The

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government says hundreds of civilians are fleeing to safer locations. In a video, armed men identifying themselves as Ndian warriors brandish assault rifles and pledge total allegiance to what they say is their fight for the independence of Cameroon's English-speaking western regions. In the video, widely circulated on social media platforms including Facebook and WhatsApp, they display two assault rifles, an undisclosed amount of money and Cameroonian military uniforms.

SOURCE: 5 March 2022, VOA News

(U) Pakistan – ISIS Claims Pakistan Bombing That Kills 56 At Shiite Mosque

(U) Peshawar – The Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) says a lone Afghan suicide bomber struck inside a Shiite Muslim Mosque in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar during Friday prayers, killing at least 56 worshippers and wounding 194 people. The ISIS affiliate in the region known as Islamic State in Khorasan province and headquartered in Afghanistan claimed Friday's devastating attack in a statement translated by the SITE Intelligence group. The statement identified the attacker as Afghan, posted his picture and said, "Islamic State fighters are constantly targeting Shi'ites living in Pakistan and Afghanistan despite the intense security measures adopted by the Taliban militia and the Pakistani police to secure Shi'a temples and centers."

SOURCE: 4 March 2022, Associated Press

- (U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.
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